

SNAPS

Shrimp trader killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*
Shrimp trader Shushanta Mallick, 40, of Bagerhat town was strangled by outlaws at Kharashabal village in Sadar thana on Friday.
His body was recovered from a derelict pond of the village on the day.
According to victim's father Shuddir Mallick, his son was given death threats for refusing to pay toll. Outlaws abducted Shushanta from Fakirbari bazaar on Thursday and killed him on the following morning for failing to realise toll. Shudhir told this correspondent.
However, none filed any complaint in this regard.

PPBCP 'second-in-command' held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*
Joint Forces arrested alleged notorious outlaw Nuruzzaman belonging to Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddha) from Dhulanda village in Tala upazila Friday night.
Acting on a tip-off, a team led by Capt Sakib raided the rented house of Nuruzzaman and arrested him, police said. 'Second-in-command' of PBCP's armed wing in Khulna region, Nuruzzaman was wanted in connection with several cases.

JU rag festival begins

JU CORRESPONDENT
The rag festival of the outgoing 27th batch of Jahangirnagar University (JU) began on the campus on Saturday.
An eight-day programme has been chalked out to mark the day which will continue till March 6.

JP divided over Rangpur Poursabha polls

A CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

Ershad's Jatiya Party is divided over chairman candidature in Rangpur Poursabha election scheduled to be held in April.

Party chairman Ershad declared the name of Abdur Rouf Manik, vice president of the party's district unit as a candidate in the municipality election.

The decision has shocked the party's Kotwali thana president Mostafa Hossain and its city unit president Advocate Salauddin Kaderi who are keen to contest in the polls.

Kaderi has already tendered his resignation.

However, his resignation is yet to be accepted said the district unit president of the party Karim Uddin Bhansa, a member of parliament (MP).

Meanwhile, Mostafa Hossain has expressed his determination to take part in the polls race.

CID gives final report in Satkhira Gur Pukur Mela bomb blasts

Political pressure alleged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Police have submitted final report in last year's Gur Pukur Mela bomb blast incidents without accusing any body, saying that those could be the outcome of rivalry between ruling party activists over leasing the venue for holding the fair.

Three people were killed and 125 injured when two powerful bombs went off at the Mela at a short interval on September 28.

Investigation officer of the case, CID Assistant Police Superintendent Mousa Box, submitted the final report to Satkhira court on Thursday.

Other sources however claimed that the final report was submitted without accusing any body due to pressure by the ruling party.

The fair was held at Satkhira stadium.

Self-help is the best help

People volunteer to build a dam to protect Fulchhari upazila headquarters from Jamuna erosion

KM REZAUL HAQUE, *Gaibandha*

It is unbelievable. Shaking off social ranks and burying political affiliations, people are cutting earth together with spades to build a dam on self-help basis to protect the Fulchhari upazila headquarters.

Failing to get government assistance despite repeated appeals and demonstrations many a times, men and women of all classes-- both educated and illiterate -- have joined hands under the banner of a Self-help Implementation Parishad.

Teachers, students, local political party activists, peasants and day

labourers from Nilkuthi area near the upazila headquarter are working together.

They are building a massive 1700 feet long and 30 feet high embankment.

This correspondent during a visit to the site last week saw that about 20 per cent of the work has been completed. The dam is being built across a dried up tributary of the Jamuna to divert its water.

Over the years, the mighty river devoured a large area in Fulchhari Sadar during rainy season, threatening the upazila headquarter, also a traditional business centre.

Every day, several hundred people join the work voluntarily, freedom fighter Shahidul Islam, convener of the Parishad, told this correspondent.

He said the upazila headquarter could be threatened in the coming rainy season had the initiative not been taken. The people are determined to complete the work before rains start, he said.

Their initiative also drew notable support from other areas. Gaibandha district BNP President Hamdul Huq Chhna was seen visibly moved at the people's initiative and assured them of all possible help.

Fulchhari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Gautam Kumar Bhattacharji said, 'They are doing a great job'. Their spontaneous response to a local problem and the spirit of cooperation and unity draws me here frequently, he told this correspondent.

He said the Fulchhari Protection Plan was approved by the Executive Committee of National Economy Council (ECNEC) but the government did not allocate any fund.



United they stand and do a great work...men and women from all classes building a dam to protect the Fulchhari upazila headquarters.

PHOTO: STAR

Justice not delayed...

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Piara Begum was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for keeping phensidyl but the judge freed her as she already passed the sentence period behind bars for her trial.

Police arrested Piara, 40, with 50 bottles of phensidyl on January 19, 2002 from the launch ghat area in Barisal city. She was in custody since then.

Second Additional District Judge SM Kudus Zaman yesterday sentenced her to two years and to pay a fine of Tk 500, in default to serve jail term for another month.

In the verdict, the judge said she should be freed as she has already passed the sentence period in custody.

Court sources said her trial was delayed due to delay in charge-framing by police.

Anti-drug meeting held at B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

An anti-drug meeting was held at North Mourail here on Saturday.

Advocate Emdadul Haque presided over the meeting organised by Anti-smoking and Drug Protection Committee while superintendent of police (SP) ATM Tarek was chief guest.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Brahmanbaria Sadar thana officer-in-charge (OC) Mia Muhammad Kutubur Rahman Chowdhury; Anti-drug Committee president Advocate Tanvir Ahmed, its secretary Jamal Uddin Ahmed, vice president (Fazlul Karim), joint secretary Advocate Muhammad Hanif, ward commissioner Md Abul Kasem, Maolana Abul Kasem, Advocate Tarikul Islam Khan, engineer Abul Kasem, ATM Aminul Islam and Advocate Md Sarif Ullah.

The committee took a resolution to curb drug smuggling within seven days.

Meanwhile, Barahmanbaria police arrested two women and recovered 70 bottles of Phensidyl from them at Chinair village in Sadar thana on Saturday.

Sit-in in front of Rangpur Sugar Mills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

Cane growers, workers and employees of Rangpur Sugar Mills staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the mills gate protesting lay-off the industrial unit on Sunday.

They organised a protest meeting where Sugar Mills Workers' Union President Abdul Matin presided over. Labour leaders Mohammed Ali, Badiuzzaman Dulu and Abdus Salam addressed the meeting.

Meanwhile, the mills authority has served a pay off notice to all its employees with effect from March 31.

Police sued 15 persons including Gobindaganj Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) secretary Anwarul, Sramik League leaders Enamul and Moazzem.

A big contingent of police and BDR personnel have been deployed in the mills area to avert any untoward incident.

Local Awami League brought out a procession on Saturday and held a meeting at Mohimagonj bazaar. Speakers blamed local BNP law maker for closure of the mills.

Madrassah teachers sent to jail hajjat for 'rape'

A CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

A court here rejected the bail prayer of a madrassah superintendent and assistant teacher, two accused in a rape and blackmailing case.

They were sent to Rangpur jail hajjat on Sunday.

Khejmotpur Dakhil Madrassah Superintendent Md Ruhul Amin and two assistant teachers Shaiful Islam and Anisur Rahman raped a female teacher five months back. The culprits also took snap shots of rape scenes to blackmail the teacher demanding a big amount of money.

Later, the victim lodged a case with Pirganj police station against them.

Among the accused, Anisur Rahman was caught by the people and handed over to police a few days after the incident. He has been in Rangpur jail for last five months. The rest two escaped arrest. But they appeared in the Special Court for Women and Children Repression, Rangpur for ad-interim bail on Sunday. The court rejected their bail prayers.

5 abducted for ransom in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

Gunmen wearing dresses like army kidnapped six road construction workers from remote Bijanondaram hilly area in Sazek union under Baghaichhari upazila on Wednesday night, according to a delayed message received here Saturday night.

The abductors demanded Tk 50 lakh ransom, Baghaichhari thana police said quoting Anil, one of the six released. Anil said the captors released him to convey the ransom demand and took the rest five to an undisclosed destination.

The labourers worked in a road development project implemented by the army.

When contacted over phone, SI Bariul said army and police teams were searching in the remote hills but could not yet rescue the kidnapped persons. They are Abdullah, 40, Shah Alam (1), 24, Shah Alam (2), 18, Abdur Rahim, 35, and Md Alam, 25.

According to a general diary filed by the project contractor, Alamgir, about 30 gunmen abruptly entered a labourers' shed when they were preparing to go to bed after dinner. They abducted six persons on gun point.

At least 150 labourers were staying at the shed. They fled away as the abductors fired shots indiscriminately.

Pirates loot 7 trawlers, toss 5 crew into sea

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Armed pirates looted fish and equipment worth about Tk 30 lakh from seven trawlers and threw five fishermen into the sea off the Patharghata coast on Friday.

At least 20 fishermen were injured as the pirates hacked them.

The incident came to light on Saturday when four of the five fishermen rescued by the association at Patharghata. They said one fishermen - Faruk, 26-- was missing.

Two of the injured fishermen -- Jalil and Ainal-- have been admitted Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Sources in Patharghata Trawler Owners Association and police said, pirates attacked three trawlers in the sea 30 kilometers south-east of Patharghata at noon and four others near Andha Buoy, ten kilometers from Patharghata at night. They looted 500 maunds of fish, engines, oil and other things.

The seven trawlers are FB (Fishing Boat) Hassan, Ma, Bismillah, Maer Doa, Faizul Islam, Rama, and Bhai Bhai.

Quoting the victims, Golam Mustafa, president of the association said, the pirates boarded fishing trawler FB Juboraj of Patharghata Khudra Matsojibi Samity (Patharghata Small Fishermen's Association), which was hijacked some days ago.

Patharghata police told his correspondent over phone yesterday that no case was lodged.

Rape, murder of 8-yr-old girl All 3 suspects held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

All the three accused of gang-rape and murder of eight-year-old schoolgirl Usha at Tilahari village in Kakonhat municipality of Godagari upazila have been arrested by police.

Police arrested two youths named Nayan, son of Azad and Mamun, son of Yaar Ali, both hailing from Tilahari village on Thursday. They were arrested following a confessional statement by Shamsul Islam, suspected mastermind of the incident.

The arrested two confessed their involvement in the incident.

Police arrested Shamsul from Dhopathghata village on Thursday and sent him to first class magistrate Sohail Imam Khan on Friday for recording his confessional statement.

In his statement, Shamsul disclosed that he along with the two others took Usha to a tomato field where they raped her one after another. She was strangled when she tried to shout, he revealed before the magistrate.

Nurun Nahar Usha, daughter of

Mohadevpur ward Awami League organising secretary Nazrul Islam and a student of class three of Kalihati Mohadevpur Primary School went missing at 9pm on the night before Eid ul Azha (February 1). Her body was found in a pool of blood from a tomato field, about 400 yards off her house. Her blood-stained clothes were found around the body on the following day.

After Usha's autopsy, Dr Emdadur Rahman, Head of the Forensic Department of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital said two or more adults raped her and her sexual organ was 'violently ruptured' causing huge bleeding. He also disclosed signs of human bite and scratch of nails all over her face and body.

Her father Nazrul filed a case under Woman and Child Repression Prevention Act of 2000 with Kakonhat Police Investigation Centre.

Police arrested two youths-- Moslem Uddin and Zamiul Hossain-- on suspicion. Both of them denied their involvement in the incident.



Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited Managing Director Md Yeasin Ali distributing blankets among cold-affected people of Dahagram-Angarpota enclave recently. Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation Administrator Dr Mozammel Hossain Khan was also present.



Teachers and students of Anandamohon College brought out a procession at Mymensingh town yesterday protesting the attack on noted litterateur Dr. Humayum Azaz.

No govt vehicle on Barisal city streets yesterday, rally held

3-hr strike on Wednesday, half-day on Mar 14-16 for city allowance

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

No government vehicle plied streets in Barisal city yesterday.

All high officials based in Barisal and the planning secretary now on a visit here had to use private vehicles and motor cars.

This was because of a call given by government employees in the city not to use any government vehicle for a day as part of their movement to realise city corporation allowance. Responding to call, drivers of all government vehicles abstained from work.

In another programme, government employees laid a siege to the Police Superintendent's office and the Head Post Office for some hours yesterday.

Planning Secretary Fazlur Rahman came to Barisal yesterday on an official visit. But he could not be provided with a government vehicle.

Rezaul Karim, NDC of Barisal, told The Daily Star that a rented microbus was provided for officials of his office.

Akhaura to be a modern land port

25 acres of land acquired to build infrastructure facilities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

Akhaura check post is being developed into a land port with required infrastructure facilities.

Direct bus service between Dhaka and Agartala and the recent bilateral agreement on cross-border movement of trucks has added importance of the check post.

Twenty-five acres of land have been acquired to construct office buildings, godowns, truck stands, dumping ground, bank branches, labourers barracks and provide telephone facility, Land Port Authority Chairman AKM Shamsuddin told newsmen during a recent visit to the check post.

After creation of the facilities, the land port will be leased to a private company for 25 years and

terms and conditions are being negotiated.

Goods are now transhipped through the point.

The importance of Akhaura check post increased after direct Dhaka-Agartala-Dhaka bus service was introduced on September 19 last year.

According to office sources, the check post now earns Tk 50,000 to 60,000 as travel tax and Tk five to six crore as duty on goods monthly.

Bangladesh exports mainly cement, soft drinks, dry meats and stone chips and imports coal from India through the check post.

The sources said earnings will increase manifold if it is turned into a land port and facilities created.